

THE YOUNG FOLKS.

Four Years Old.
"I'm four years old to-day, papa!
I guess you didn't know
How very old and big and strong
In one night I should grow.
For last night when I went to sleep,
Your boy was only three!
Just see how tall I look to-day—
Papa, do you know me?
I'm four years old!"

"And now I am almost a man
And want a candy store—
To sell ice-cream and nuts and figs,
And lots of good things more!
And—oh—I want a big black dog
To keep bad boys away—
A pony, just as white as snow,
To ride on every day—
I'm four years old!"

"I'm sorry for poor little Ned,
Just think, he's only two!
But if he lives, he'll grow a man,
And all these nice things do,
I'll give him all my tips and baits,
My dresses and my toys
For things like these are very nice
To please such little boys!
I'm four years old!"

"What! four years old! My little son,
You fill me with surprise!
My boy become a man so soon!
Can I believe what you say?
Ah! golden time, so full of hope,
So fresh and sweet and fair!
I well remember now the day
When I, too, was four years old!"

Maggie's Toothache.

Maggie Morton was a very fine little girl if she was a tomboy. She could ride "any horse" (as she said, but her experience had been limited thus far to a couple of aged specimens who plowed corn for a living), rake hay, hoe corn, fish, "pull off shoots"—which, translated, meant firing off her brother Harry's gun—and sundry other accomplishments we have not space here to mention. But you never heard this little lass boast of work indoors. Indeed no. She lived in the open air a great portion of the time, and it could not be expected of her that she should take care of Dame Nature and her mother, too. So she ran wild, and was healthy and happy.

Now, with all her health and good nature, Maggie had one fault. She told very large stories, and was apt to deceive when it served her purpose; and this sketch is to explain how this little girl was tripped up completely by a rope of her own stretching.

One fine spring morning her uncle Amos stopped as he was passing the house, and called to Maggie, who was very busily engaged in building a miniature leaning tower out of brick—so much of a leaning one, in fact, that it managed to fall over when it got half the required height. She heard the call, and in a flash was standing by the side of the carriage in which her relative was seated.

"A present for you, Maggie," he said, as he dropped a wee black puppy into her apron, which she had instinctively held out after hearing the first two words.

"Oh, thank you, uncle. What a good one he is, isn't he? I expect he will grow up to watch me and bite folks; don't you think he will?"

"I hope not," replied her uncle, as he drove away. "I expect to make a few calls during the year myself; and if he is ungrateful enough to bite one who saved him from drowning, I shall be sorry for my efforts in his behalf."

Maggie wended her way toward the house in silent contemplation of the animal that scrambled around in her apron, now and then giving vent to a spiteful yell in finding himself in such close quarters.

"Oh, mamma," she cried, on entering the house, "just look here! Such a real, blessed little puppy! He's mine. Uncle Amos gave him to me. Hear him scream for milk. Please will you skim a mess, so he may quit and wag his tail?"

"Not now, dear," replied the composed mother, as she opened the oven door and withdrew a loaf of snowy bread. "I will see to him by and by. It is time for you to get ready for school. John and Harry have already gone."

The tears sprang into Maggie's eyes. Not even one minute left wherein to enjoy the companionship of her beautiful pet. She abruptly left the room. After some ten minutes had passed, her mother stepped to the door and called her. No answer. She called again. Then a faint voice:

"I don't b'lieve I can go to school to-day, ma."

"Why, my dear?"

"I've got the toothache, oh, ever so bad."

"How long have you had it?"

"O, a good long while; but it came on harder since—"

"Since the dog came, I suppose?" added her mother.

"No, it wasn't the puppy did it. It just came on."

Now it so chanced that Mr. Clinton, the teacher, had called at the house the evening before, and confided to Mrs. Morton and her husband a genuine and delightful surprise for the whole school. Mr. Gibson, the owner of a beautiful place near by, had invited him to bring his whole school on the following day for a good twelve hours' recreation—strawberries and cream in abundance, and a good time generally. Mr. Clinton also stated that this gentleman had kindly furnished boats—live across a beautiful river that ran by the school-house—and oarsmen beside. "So I shall merely call the school to order," he added, "and after telling them where we are going, pack them off; for my friend says he wants to greet them in their every-day school garb—not dressed up for the occasion."

Of course Mr. and Mrs. Morton promised to keep all this to themselves; but they both had enjoyed in anticipation the store of genuine pleasure for their three children. But here was Maggie with a made-up toothache, asking to remain at home, utterly ignorant of the sacrifice she was making. With a half sigh her mother assented to her staying, with the added inquiry as to which particular tooth it was that troubled her.

"Don't know," replied the little culprit, trying to cry, "I b'lieve it's all of 'em."

Mrs. Morton always did as she said, however. She rubbed the preparation generously throughout the sufferer's mouth, and, doing her face up in red flannel, bade her stay in-doors, on pain of severe punishment, and left her to her own reflections.

Noon came. Maggie had played with her puppy to her heart's content, and was tired of him. So, with her nose pressed flat against the window-pane, she watched for her brothers. But they came not. Two, three, four o'clock, and still no Harry, no John. Poor Maggie was almost beside herself with anxiety by this time, and could not help wondering at the calm demeanor of her mother. But just as the sun sank out of sight the front door slammed, as it only can slam when boys are about, and in rushed the absent ones, full of boisterous mirth, and very much stained about the mouth.

"Where have you been?" inquired Maggie, wonderingly.

"Been!" replied Harry, dancing vigorously on one leg. "Why, over to Mr. Gibson's, to be sure. The whole school was invited. We went across in boats he sent for us. I tell you it was jolly. Wasn't it, John?"

"It was that," replied John, throwing his hat in the corner and stretching himself on the lounge. "But what was the matter with you, Mag? All the girls were crazy to know why you weren't there."

Maggie unfortunately received the gift of a fine pup, and was immediately seized with a severe toothache," replied Mrs. Morton, gravely. "Mr. Clinton had told me before of this holiday, and I knew what my little girl lost by her affliction; and as she said she was unable to go I let her stay at home."

Poor Maggie! This was the unkindest cut of all. To know of such a pleasure and keep her out of it! Her lips quivered and her little form trembled, and her brothers looked on in silent pity.

"Your tooth is somewhat better, is it not?" inquired Mrs. Morton, calmly.

"It's just like it always was," replied the child, rising defiantly to her feet. "It never ached! I lied, so I did!"

Mrs. Morton was a wise mother. She did not turn the child from her at this critical moment, when rebellious nature, smarting under disappointment, confessed its misdeeds for spite's sake. No, indeed. She tenderly passed her arm about Maggie's waist, and drawing her close to her, softly said:

"Learn from this, my dear child, that falsehood brings its own reward. I love you. So do we all. But your besetting sin has punished you justly to-day."

Maggie had the real, genuine toothache about six months after this event, but kept it all to herself for a whole day, like a little heroine, and was only betrayed when she burst into tears from very pain.

"I knew it was real toothache, ma," she said; "but it made me feel so 'shamed to think of when I had it make believe, that I kept still till it broke through!"—*Christian Union.*

The World on a Mock-Orange.
Now, my young friends, in case any of you should come across a nice round, yellow mock orange, I'll tell you what to do with it—provided your grandmother already has a good one in her stocking-basket. If not, you should give it to her, and get yourself another one. A canary bird told me that the way old ladies darned stockings was to put a big yellow ball in them, and then pick at them with a queer sort of a shiny steel bill; and though his description wasn't clear, I knew what he meant. Well, you take your round mock-orange, and force a knitting-needle clear through it from the stem end, so that it will turn evenly on the needle. Then, with a blunt needle, you mark the grand divisions of the earth upon it—Europe, Asia, Africa, and America (you see I know them)—in just the right shape, and then you put in your oceans and islands, and what not, all complete. Next you go over all the markings with a camel's-hair brush dipped in red ink, or violet ink, or any water-color you choose, taking care to wipe the orange off instantly with a soft, damp cloth. The color will sink into the markings and leave the surface of the mock-orange clean. Then you have your globe complete. And you can make little prop, if you are ingenious, that will revolve on its axis, and precisely the right angle. After a while it gets dry and hard, and if you please you can go over the markings once more with a fine pen dipped in the proper color.

How did I know all this?
I heard a dear little girl telling another little girl—and "you can't think," said she, "what real splendid fun it is!"—*From "Jack-in-the-Pulpit," St. Nicholas.*

Little Old Bachelor.
Little old bachelor—that's what he's called—in his high chair you may see him installed. Thoughtful he looks; he is quality precise; Why, he could give you a world of advice! Those little hands never made a muddle. There's pretty eyes of the girls are quite shy; All his actions go on the old way—
Little old bachelor, four years to-day!

What he puts on must be neat as a pin, If not, a terrible state he is in!
What does he look like? Now guess if you can—
A queer little boy, or a little old man?
Hard to be suited, and dainty of taste,
Calm and collected, he never makes haste.
Ever seen any one act in this way?
Little old bachelor, four years to-day!

This is indeed the age of perfect hotels. The Sherman House, at Chicago, has a fire-alarm connecting every room with the main office; has none but brick partition walls; has Paris floors, with cement between all joints, and in short is absolutely fire-proof. Notwithstanding all these advantages, its rates have recently been largely reduced.

Why is it that Book Agents make money so rapidly, canvassing for the Co-operative Pub. Company, Muscatine, Iowa? Because they publish only first-class books and divide profits with agents.

Pianos and Organs.
Fine new rosewood pianos for \$300. Fine walnut organs, six stops, \$125. Good second-hand pianos, \$150 to \$200. Reed's Temple of Music, Chicago.

AMERICA has one doctor to every 800 inhabitants.

THE NORTHWESTERN HORSE-NAIL CO.'s "Finished" Nail is the best in the world.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

Weekly Review of the Chicago Market.
FINANCE.
Money remarkably quiet; but little demand for funds, the grain and provision interest doing very little in the way of borrowing, owing to the fact that there is no profit in carrying. Rates unchanged; 10 per cent, with shaded rates for first-class paper. But little demand for currency from the country. Bonds rather quiet, closing at 121½ for U. S. 6's of '81; 114 for 5-20's of '92; 117 for '95 and 117½ for currency 6's. Latest gold quotations—New York, 111½; Chicago, 111½.

GRAIN.
The visible supply of grain, including the stocks in terminal, at the principal points of accumulation, at the lake and seaboard ports, and in transit by rail, Dec. 19, 1874, and the comparative stocks at the other undermentioned periods, were as follows:

	1873.	1872.
Dec. 19.	12,449,495	12,388,943
Wheat.	4,024,039	8,804,161
Dec. 19.	2,583,229	2,671,469
Oats.	2,447,778	2,476,141
Dec. 19.	204,071	204,160
Rye.	2,447,778	2,476,141
Dec. 19.	204,071	204,160

GRAIN.
The market for grain during the week under review has been comparatively light, and almost wholly on local speculative account. There were but few orders from the interior, and but little speculative demand from other markets. As usual at this season, there is but little shipping, and the absence of any shipping worth mentioning being due now to the fact that local speculation has forced prices above a shipping margin; prices being against shipping.

The receipts of all kinds of grain were lighter than during the preceding week, and showed a larger decrease when compared with the same week last year. The shipments were also lighter, the stock in store showing an increase of 250,000 bu. wheat, 150,000 bu. oats, 170,000 bu. rye, 3,600 bu. barley, and 1,000 bu. corn. There was but little inquiry for flour, shippers holding off. Spring wheat was moderately active, but somewhat unsettled. Values at one time were 10c lower, and a higher price was expected. The market was in the same general condition as the corn trade—a "corner" for December being a feature of the trade. The general market was firmer, however, with light receipts and less desire to force prices. The market was in the same general condition as the corn trade—a "corner" for December being a feature of the trade. The general market was firmer, however, with light receipts and less desire to force prices.

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ST. LOUIS.
WHEAT—No. 2 Red..... 1 05 @ 1 06½
CORN—No. 2 New..... 64 @ 66
OATS—No. 2..... 56 @ 57½
BARLEY—No. 2..... 1 50 @ 1 61
LARD..... 13 @ 15
HOGS..... 6 00 @ 6 25
CATTLE..... 4 50 @ 4 70

MILWAUKEE.
WHEAT—No. 1..... 94 @ 95
CORN—No. 1..... 90 @ 91
OATS—No. 2..... 63 @ 65
BARLEY—No. 2..... 51 @ 52
LARD..... 13 @ 15
HOGS..... 6 00 @ 6 25
CATTLE..... 4 50 @ 4 70

DETROIT.
WHEAT—Extra..... 1 15 @ 1 16½
CORN—No. 1..... 70 @ 71
OATS—No. 1..... 54 @ 55
WHEAT—No. 1 Red..... 1 10 @ 1 12
CORN—No. 2 Red..... 1 08 @ 1 09
OATS—No. 2..... 72 @ 73
LARD..... 13 @ 15

CLEVELAND.
WHEAT—No. 1 Red..... 1 10 @ 1 12
CORN—No. 2 Red..... 1 08 @ 1 09
OATS—No. 2..... 72 @ 73
LARD..... 13 @ 15

NO UNCERTAIN SOUND.—When a man discovers a great truth it is his duty to proclaim it to his fellow-man. The use of Dr. WALKER'S VINEGAR BITTERS cannot be too strongly recommended to the invalid public. To those who have tried it, nothing need be said—their experience is their proof, pure and positive as Holy Writ. To those who have not tried it, these truths cannot be too often repeated. It is a certain vegetable specific, which aids faltering nature against the triumphs of dyspepsia, bilious disorders of every kind, malarious fevers, constipation of the bowels, liver complaint, Spring and Fall debility, etc., etc. It costs but little, and can always be at hand. It is the poor man's friend. It saves a doctor's bill, and the time lost in riding five, ten, or twenty miles after him; besides being free from all the poisonous ingredients of the pharmacopoeia. It will stimulate you to-day, leave you weaker to-morrow. Its benefits are permanent.

For All Female Complaints.
nothing equals Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is a most powerful restorative tonic, combining the most valuable nerve properties, especially adapted to the wants of debilitated ladies suffering from weak blood, inward fever, congestion, inflammation, or irritation, or from nervousness, or neuritis, or from any of the numerous ailments of the female system. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is sold by all dealers in medicines.

THE PRAIRIE FARMER.—We have long been in the habit of calling the attention of our readers, once or twice a year, to the merits of this enterprising and reliable farm and freeds journal. We again do so with pleasure, and knowing that we are thus doing the farmers and fruit-growers of this region a service, we will appreciate it if they by this means are induced to subscribe for it. All its departments are richly filled with choice and entertaining matter that renders it the ablest and most popular paper published for the farmers of the Northwest. The subscription price is now \$2 per year, and 15 cents extra for prepayment of postage. Specimen copies and agent's outfit free, and will be sent upon application to the *Prairie Farmer Co.*, Chicago, Ill.

WILHOFF'S ANTI-PERIODIC OR FEVER AND AGUE TONIC.—This invaluable and standard family medicine is now a household word, and maintains its reputation as the most powerful and reliable remedy for the treatment of the fever and ague, and is endorsed by the medical profession, and prescribed daily in the Charity Hospital and other hospitals in New Orleans. Wilhoff's Tonic is thus highly recommended by the leading medical men of the country, and is a source of great satisfaction to the thousands of sufferers who are cured by its use. WHEELLOCK, FINLAY & CO., Proprietors, New Orleans. For sale by all Druggists.

SEA FOAM BAKING POWDER.—In another column will be found the card of the reliable house of GEO. F. GANTZ & CO., who have won an enviable and solid reputation as the inventors and proprietors of "the best Baking Powder in the world." All through the Eastern States it is universally used, and countless praises are daily received from dealer and consumer. Those who have used it will have no other, and those who have not yet learned the delights to be derived from sweet, pure bread.—*American Newspaper Reporter.*

THERE is, probably, no way in which we can benefit our readers more than by recommending to them for general use Johnson's Anodyne Liniment. It is adapted to almost all the purposes of Family Medicine, and as a specific for coughs, colds, whooping cough, soreness of the chest, lame stomach, rheumatism, spitting of blood, and all lung difficulties, it has no equal that ever we saw or heard of.

The propriety of giving condition medicine to horses, cattle and sheep was demonstrated by many of the Agricultural Societies throughout the State last fall, and we believe that in every case but one they decided in favor of Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders. Good judgment.

An ingenious physician in Paris—Remondou by name—more than two hundred years ago began circulating a sheet containing the news and gossip of the day